

The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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President's Corner

by Maureen F. Harvey

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the MOS Annual Conference (May 16-18) on Solomon's Island. There are so many interesting venues for birding in southern MD that it should be great fun!

I want to share some good ideas with you that were voiced during a meeting between representatives of the bird conservation community and Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I represented MOS and Dave Curson was there for Audubon MD-DC. Scientists were there from DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS, Gwen Brewer) and the Natural Heritage Program (NHP, David Brinker and Jim McCann on the speaker phone). This meeting occurred on February 18th as an action derived from the October 2013 Conservation Workshop at Jug Bay Wetlands Center. The purpose of this follow-up meeting was to identify ways for birding community volunteers to assist DNR in meeting its goals of protecting MD's diverse wildlife and enhancing wildlife habitat to ensure healthy populations are sustained. Gwen provided a list of potential activities that included some things that we birders already do – such as monitoring bird populations through seasonal counts and bird blitz surveys – but with a somewhat different focus. NHP's overall goal is to maintain diversity across all species present (or that should be present) on our state lands, including native plants and animals. We've been made aware through many different books, articles and lectures that if the habitat supports a good diversity of birds, then other species are also being supported. Here are ideas for individuals and chapters to consider when planning activities and some other thoughts about supporting bird conservation in MD.

Adopt a Park - Stewardship

Identify state (or county) land with suitable birdy habitat for your chapter to adopt and monitor regularly. Consider adopting one of the 42 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) identified and documented by Audubon MD-DC. The IBA map for MD is available at <http://md.audubon.org/ibas-maryland> by clicking on the IBA map (updated 2011). Information about Wildlife Management Areas and State Parks can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Publiclands/index.asp>. During seasonal bird surveys, collect data specifically for that area, maintaining a separate compilation. During regular field trips, look for indications of changes in land management that are favorable or contrary to habitat protection. Let the park managers know of any discrepancies and advocate for better management practices when necessary. Volunteers are also needed for stewardship activities at

many wildlife sites and natural areas. Birders can help with these through joining scheduled activities and arranging more work sessions with site managers. Activities needed include invasive species removal, planting native trees and shrubs, deer control, and prescribed burns.

Bird Survey Needs

DNR needs data for species not covered adequately by other surveys; examples are shown below. Gwen, Jim, and Dave will work out a more complete list.

- Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species occurrence records
- Golden-winged Warbler sites for a current study at Frostburg State University
- Marshbirds
- Colonial waterbirds
- Raptors
- Nocturnal species (owls, nightjars)
- Species with localized distributions
- Regional surveys for Golden-winged Warbler, nightjars
- Shorebirds

MD Bird Conservation Initiative

We need to encourage new traditions of volunteerism among birders. The MDBiodiversity Project featured during this year's Annual Conference is a great example of a volunteer effort that is helping to compile data useful for conservation while building a corps of volunteers. Audubon's Bird Blitz, which recruited MOS members to gather data for IBA identification, is another example. Gwen noted that NHP does not have enough staff to manage volunteer efforts and that it would be preferable for external volunteers to be coordinated by an external group. This is one of the main functions of the Bird Conservation Initiatives in states like Wisconsin, and a Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative could be very beneficial. This was a major discussion item at the October workshop and a side committee was formed to work on it.

Enhanced Protection of Natural Areas

There is a need for legislation to designate key natural areas and mandate their protection. Maryland's Wildlands designation does this for large areas, but there is a need for similar protection for smaller areas. Many other states have such legislation. In MD, the protection of smaller key biodiversity sites often relies upon unwritten agreements. Birders could help by calling for and supporting Natural Areas Program legislation.

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Dedicated Wildlife Conservation Funding

Are you aware that wildlife conservation in Maryland is woefully underfunded because our state does not provide any dedicated funding to the main agency responsible for wildlife conservation, DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service? The WHS is dependent on hunting license fees and a federal tax on hunting equipment for 90% of its revenues. US Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grants provide some additional funding. With such scant funding, the WHS struggles to adequately monitor populations of species of conservation need and manage the network of natural areas for which it is responsible. I believe birders and other outdoor enthusiasts would support legislation to set up dedicated funding for wildlife conservation. This would take a multiyear effort by a group of organizations, including MOS, that would begin with a review of funding mechanisms adopted by other states. Next, discuss possible approaches with DNR, the Governor's Office, Capitol Hill, etc. Then, define a strategy that would lead to drafting and enacting legislation in favor of dedicated funding.

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Update

The USFWS requires an update to Maryland's SWAP in order to apply for future State Wildlife Grants, due by 2015. The first version (2005) was produced with something of a minimalist approach, and the update needs more detail. Input from birders and environmental organizations will be beneficial. Expect to hear more about this in upcoming months as WHS solicits input at multiple junctures, such as selection of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and prioritization of conservation actions.



**Chesapeake Bay
Environmental Center**
STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center has teamed with Queen Ann's County Office of Tourism to offer a fabulous **Birding Weekend - May 2, 3 and 4, 2014**. This is a full weekend of birding for the avid birder and the beginner. It includes boat tours, walks, lectures, kayak tours and more! Full details on the scheduled events are available online at <http://www.bayrestoration.org/recreation/birding>. For more information or to sign up for any of the activities, call Debbie at (410) 604-2100.

SHOREBIRD WORKSHOP

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, August 22, 2014

10 am to 4 pm

The State-wide Education Committee continues its series of workshops with a special session on shorebirds. Matt Hafner, MOS member and Harford Club President, will conduct the seminar and lead the afternoon field trip.

The lecture part of the workshop will commence at 10 AM on Saturday, August 22nd, in the classroom at the Chincoteague Visitor's Center. Following a bring-your-own brown bag lunch, we will head out to the refuge in search of shorebirds. This being Chincoteague, they won't be hard to find!

The workshop will end at 4:00 PM with a tally – sure to be an impressive number.

For those who want to arrive Friday and/or stay over for the weekend, Chincoteague offers a number of motels and hotels. Pocomoke City in Maryland is a short (14 miles) distance from the refuge and has several motels more reasonably priced.

Cost is \$20 per participant. Check should be made payable to the MOS and sent to Maryanne Dolan, 1705 Lanier Place NW, Apt 306, Washington DC 20009. Please make sure your telephone number is somewhere on the check. I can be reached at Maryanne.dolan@gmail.com or at (202) 733-5204

Maryanne Dolan
State-wide Education Chair

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

MOS 2014 Annual Conference

May 16-18

Solomons, MD

There's still time to register for our 2014 Conference. If you have not received a registration brochure, go to our MOS Website at [mdbirds.org](http://www.mdbirds.org) or contact me.

Don't miss out on some great birding. Remember this is where we saw a Swainson's Warbler in 2005. Come and enjoy the fellowship and the chance to go on field trips with excellent leaders.

Janet Shields
janetbill@prodigy.net or 410-901-1039



ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

Bill and Louise Miles traveled to Costa Rica:

"I sometimes wonder if I am a photographer who does birding, or a birder who does photography. I guess that was answered recently in Costa Rica when I knew I only had a few seconds to view or photograph a very rare Greater Potoo. We were on a moving tram up high in a rain forest canopy, going behind a tree; I lifted my binoculars rather than my camera. My wife, *Louise*, and I had returned to Costa Rica after visiting there three years ago. I knew we would see many unusual birds, but I never dreamed we would see a Potoo, much less photograph one. I was rewarded the following day while we were on a river cruise and one posed for me. I got a great shot!"

Birding in Costa Rica is almost overwhelming. Nearly all of their 900 species are life birds for us, and all in a country the size of West Virginia. We were hoping to find two species that intrigued me and photograph them on this trip: the Snowcap, a hummingbird, and the Sunbittern.

After photographing the Potoo, a toucan doing a mating display, Scarlet Macaws, trogons, and many other birds, we headed into the mountains looking for the Snowcaps. We found them plus fourteen other beautiful hummingbird species at Rancho Naturalista. I photographed the Snowcap and eleven other species.

The other bird I wanted to find and shoot was the uncommon Sunbittern. I hoped to catch the sunburst pattern on its open wings. We did find the Sunbittern sitting on a nest with a baby. Later when we saw it foraging along a stream, I hoped to see it open its wings. I could have startled the bird into opening its wings if I were just a photographer, but a birder would never do that. Maybe next time." *Bill Miles*



CARROLL COUNTY

When *Colleen Swank* read about the Environmental Film Festival in the Nations Capital, in the most recent Yellowthroat, she took her son (Carroll County junior birder) *Noah*, along with his sister *Emma*, and a couple friends to the National Wildlife Visitor Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge to see a couple movies. They viewed the movie "Return Flight" about the repopulation of the Channel Islands with bald eagles, following years of DDT exposure causing reproductive issues, including incompetent egg shells. *Noah* really enjoyed the movie, especially the biologist they called the "dope of the rope" who hung from a cable suspended from a helicopter to replace damaged real eggs with fake eggs, and later to replace the fake eggs with the chicks which had been born and cared for in their research facility. After the movie, the film producer, *Kevin White*, was there, and *Noah* asked to have his photo taken with him. *Mr. White* was thrilled to take a photo with youngsters interested in the conservation efforts. Not a great photo (the flash in the eyes), but it was a nice moment. We also viewed a movie called "Magic of the Snowy Owl", and saw a live Barred Owl and a live Great-Horned Owl, and took a tram ride. What an enjoyable day! *Colleen Swank*



Noah Swank (next to *Mr. White*) and friends

CECIL COUNTY

The Cecil Bird Club has a new president, in fact two: *Sean McCandless* and *Ken Drier* have stepped up to assume the position of co-presidents from *Maryanne Dolan* who had to abdicate when she moved to Washington DC. Her shoes, it appears, were too big to be filled by one individual! One of the first items on the new presidents' agenda is to revive the club's newsletter which has been absent for a while. Club member and Christmas Count Coordinator *Laura Balascio* has graciously come forward to edit the newsletter. The Cecil Bird Club on March 8th was involved in the annual Cabin Fever outreach event sponsored by one of the local churches. The club will also be participating in the first annual Mount Harmon Plantation Earth Day and 5K run event on April 26th. We hope to see some of you out there. Yellowthroat Editor and Cecil Club member *Richard Donham* is off on an African safari to Botswana and Victoria Falls in June while at the same time co-president *Ken Drier* will be sailing off the Turquoise Coast of Turkey exploring the cultural and bird life of the area. Our other club co-president will find himself adding to his life list with his first trip to Colorado. Ex-president and still

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club member *Maryanne Dolan* will be journeying to Costa Rica. We expect to hear more about these adventures in the near future. One final note: MOS agreed to fund a request from the club to have educational signs made and put up at the Fair Hill Natural Resource Area, a true gem in the county. The signs will focus on the ground-nesting Bobolinks that breed in the fields there. Last year the club did a survey and found numerous breeding pairs. The club was then able to work with the Fair Hill management to not have the fields mowed until after the breeding season.

Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

The Harford County Bird Club gave out its annual awards at their March Meeting. 2013 Birder of the Year was given to *Tom Gibson* for the promotion of birding through organizing the club field trips for the last several years. 2013 Volunteer of the Year was given to both *John Ireland* and *Elaine Beery* for their work with our raffle. *John* (owner of Wild Bird Marketplace) consistently donates birdseed to the raffle and *Elaine* has organized the raffle for the last few years. 2013 Rookie of the Year was given to up-and-coming teen birder *Matt Addicks*. Matt presented some of his excellent photos to the club last summer. 2013 Lister of the Year was given to *Josh Emm* who saw 232 species in the county last year during his Big Year. *Josh* gave an excellent presentation of photos and stories from the Big Year at our January meeting.

We couldn't decide on a single Bird of Year for the 2013 so we had to give out multiple awards! The first award was given to Loretta McGraw and *Dennis* and *Jean Kirkwood* for hosting the Bullock's Oriole seen by so many last February. While most people saw the oriole at the *Kirkwood's* feeder, the bird actually spent more time at the McGraw house! The second award was to the David and Michelle Hopkins Family, on whose on whose farm a Snowy Owl took up residence in December. The family enjoyed having the owl and the hundreds of birders, photographers, and curious passersby that stopped to see it.

Jean Wheeler

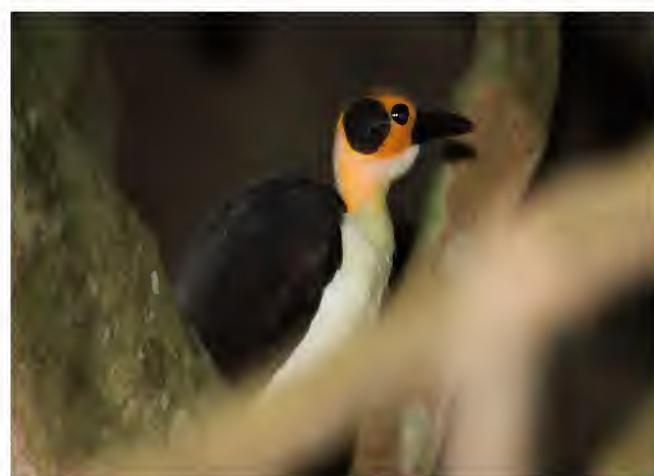
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In the September/October 2013 Chapter Chatter *Don Messersmith* gave us an interim report on his travels across America. He has now returned from his odyssey and a summary of his travels can be read in the February 2014 Chat, the Montgomery Bird Club newsletter. For Don's full report on his big birding trip, please visit our website: www.montgomerybirdclub.org

Lydia Schindler, who recently returned from three months in St. Augustine Beach, Florida, writes: "a winter's worth of birding (primarily in north Florida, some central, all East coast) started with Snowy Owl and Snow Buntings in the far north, and ended with Swallow-tailed Kites in the Everglades. In between, I saw all the usual Florida waders, including a roost of Roseate Spoonbills near St. Augustine. Also, all three scoters (close up), plus Long-tailed Duck, visiting nearby Salt Creek, both whistling-ducks, Northern Gannets daily from the balcony, sometimes by the hundred, Purple and Common Gallinules, and Purple Swamphen. Other finds included roadside Sandhill Cranes, Wilson's Plover, and 20 other shorebirds, Black-headed Gull, many frothy Bonaparte's Gulls, neighborhood Nanday Parakeets, Calliope

and Rufous Hummingbirds, Vermillion Flycatcher and Western Kingbird, 10 warblers, 11 sparrows, Bullock's Oriole. One day, scoping from the balcony, I saw a massive dark shadow floating at and just above the ocean's surface. I gradually convinced myself it was a Pilot Whale, which come to the waters around St Augustine to calve. After I showed Paul, I called the Whale Patrol, and pretty soon a small, strangely equipped boat went whizzing by and halted near the "shadow." It was indeed a Pilot Whale and calf. This was the first (and as far as I know the only) report of the year."

Gail Mackiernan writes that she and *Barry Cooper* recently returned from Ghana, where they were joined by Greg Anderson of Australia and two friends from Great Britain. "Many Montgomery friends will recall that Greg was an MBC member a number of years ago while working for a time at NIH. The tour was organized by Ashanti African Tours and our guide was the superb Robert Ntakor. For 23 days the crew journeyed from hot and humid Guinea rainforest to Ghana's arid Sahelian north. Ghana is now one of the easiest countries in West Africa to see some of the continent's most elusive birds. The main target for most birding trips was the enigmatic, crow-sized Yellow-headed Picathartes (or Rockfowl), one of two species in an ancient passerine lineage surviving only in West Africa. It took the group two tries but we managed excellent views of three birds at their cliffside mud nests (whew!). Other special birds seen included Egyptian Plover, Pel's Fishing Owl, Akun Eagle Owl, Long-tailed Hawk, Standard-winged Nightjar, Nkulengu Rail (which almost no one ever sees!), Blue-moustached and Black Bee-eaters, Black and Red-billed Dwarf Hornbills, and the elusive Capuchin Babbler. A fair number of mammals were also recorded, including Savannah Elephant. Also we saw over 200 kinds of butterfly -- still only a small percent of Ghana's 1000+ species! We can confirm *Mike Bowen's* trip report (published in the MBC Chat) that Ghana is HOT and HUMID, except in the north where it is only HOT; that many roads leave a lot to be desired; and that hotels vary greatly in quality. But the food is tasty, the people are welcoming, and the birds splendid! We returned to the USA in the midst of a snowstorm which stranded us at JFK for 14 hours, forced a roundabout return to Washington via an overnight in Atlanta (!) -- and made us long for some of that lovely HEAT!"



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Robert Parsons adds the following short essay about milestones and life birds: "I started birding just eight years ago, but since then have jumped in with both feet and recently passed the magic "600" species in the ABA area after finding a group of Common Redpolls during a business trip to Colorado. My goal is to see at least 50 species in each of the 50 states -- 17 states down and a lot to go. Although there are a lot of drawbacks to my heavy travel schedule, one advantage is the chance to grab a few hours occasionally while traveling to go birding! Most of my business partners don't want to start at 6:00 am! Recently, I found a pair of nesting Nanday Parakeets in Boca Raton and a group of beautiful Rosy-faced Lovebirds just outside of Phoenix, picking up some of the newer birds on the ABA Checklist.

"This past year we were able to spend a few days vacationing in Jamaica. I snuck away with two of my son-in-laws and we had a chance to spend some time with Ann Sutton. Ann and her late husband are widely known as leaders in the Jamaican birding community. She still lives on a small preserve on which you can likely find many of the Jamaican endemics. We found two Jamaican Owls right in her yard, just yards away. We also spotted a couple of Northern Potoos perched in their traditional pose as the sun was going down. During just a few hours birding in her yard, we saw a total of six endemics—all without leaving her property. We also visited the well-known Rocklands Bird Sanctuary, where you can sit quietly with a small tube of sugar water and have Jamaican Mango and Streamertails land on your fingers and grab something to eat. My wife loved this part—and while she sat and enjoyed the hummingbirds, I was able to wander around the area. Orangequit, Caribbean Dove, Jamaican Tody, Jamaican Vireo and Woodpeckers, Arrowhead Warblers and Chestnut-bellied Cuckoos were easy to find. All in all, while the family enjoyed the beach and sun, I was able to sneak in 69 species during the few days that we were there in just a few hours of birding.

"Last month, I had to be in Mexico for some business meetings. I found an extra day and went out birding in the Garra de Cuero area north of Puerto Vallarta. We had a great time, finding a number of fun birds such as Red-billed Pigeon, White-tipped Dove, Citreoline Tropicbird and Orange-fronted Parakeet. There were lots of Military Macaw flying overhead in small groups, making their presence heard well in advance. Mexican Parrotlet, Blue Mockingbird, Sinaloa Wren, Yellow Grosbeak, Sinaloa Crow and Rufous-backed Robin were all new birds for me. One of my favorites, however, was the absolutely striking Black-throated Magpie-Jay, which is a bird that I unsuccessfully searched for several times in the southern San Diego area---and which looks like its name! A fun trip---78 species for the day.

"In reflecting on some of these trips, I couldn't help think about how fun it is to find new birds that we haven't seen before. At the same time, however, everything is relative. Birders who come to Maryland for the first time are often fascinated by Blue Jays and Cardinals. American Robin is just as fascinating a bird as the Rufous-backed Robin of Mexico. I really have come to believe that each bird we see offers so much---if we will just take the time to enjoy and appreciate them."

Suzanne Dater, the dauntless photographic traveler, reports: "I was fortunate to go to Baja California's Sea of Cortez for a week photographing wildlife for the first week of March on a small 67-foot craft with 8 Mexican photographers, a captain and an engineer. We spent the whole time aboard this small, excellent vessel and saw only a few sailboats and two small research crafts like ours. We were fortunate to see Black-necked Grebes, Black-vented Shearwaters, Brown and Blue-footed Boobies, Double-crested, Pelagic and Brandt's cormorants, Heerman's gulls, Brown Pelicans, Elegant Terns, and thousands of Magnificent Frigatebirds nesting. As two of the photographers were making a film on the wildlife of the area to preserve it from development, we had special permits to approach wildlife and specifically saw up close blue whales, fin whales, humpback and Bryde's whales. Hundreds of California sea lions were on a tall rocky island. Common bottle-nosed, spinner and short-beaked common dolphins followed our craft jumping for joy, sometimes outdone by manta rays' explosive aerials. We were in the southern half of Baja and fortunately there are hardly any developed areas outside the towns of Baja and Loreto as the land is exceedingly dry and mountainous, with offshore islands, some of them privately owned and others now being preserved from human development. The sea birds were plentiful as they gobbled sardines and krill as they surfaced. The baleen whales made great blows as they came up for air. I'll never forget the aerobatics of boobies folding their wings like paper airplanes to dive straight down hundreds of feet into a writhing sea of feeding brown pelicans, terns, gulls!"

Chris Wright

Lights Out Baltimore

By Lynne Parks, Baltimore Bird Club

Lights Out Baltimore (LOB) was formed by a group of concerned birdwatchers in the BBC who wish to raise awareness about birds and building collisions. We endeavor to make Charm City safer for migratory birds by educating the public about the hazards that light pollution and large expanses of plate glass pose to birds (<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeedyar/lightsoutbaltimore/>). We monitor bird strikes at downtown structures during migration. Volunteers walk the streets of the city starting at five AM and record data about the birds as we find them. At first, my involvement focused on rescuing injured strike victims and collecting the fatalities which go to researchers. Then I began to wonder how else I could help. When I started volunteering for LOB five years ago, I couldn't envision where the experience would take me.

I'm a fine arts photographer and I live in Baltimore City. I usually take abstract photographs of urban decay, but the beauty of the birds we collected captivated me. I look at art as often as I look at birds. Hunting trophies in still life painting from the Northern Renaissance comes to mind. There is a beautiful, small sculpture of a dead thrush by Houdon at the Frick Collection (http://www.frick.org/sites/default/files/pdf/press/Houdon_Clodion_ImageList_0.pdf). Images of birds in art informs my work.

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Being a volunteer for LOB is emotional work. For any bird lover, and I've always been one, it's heartbreaking to find the casualties. We know the horrible statistics: between 365 million to a 988 million birds die each year from building collisions (American Bird Conservancy, <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcpolicies/policy/collisions/index.html>). Being at the scene and holding a dying bird in hand emphasized the loss on an individual scale. As an artist, the way to honor the individual is through portraiture and that is what I chose to do. I began taking photographs of the fatalities. My motivation is the same as memorial photography in the 19th century.

I've been submitting my work to The Baker Artist Awards for a few years. I was awarded a b-Grant in 2011, and in 2013, I won a \$25,000 Mary Sawyers Baker Prize. Prize winners have their work shown at The Baltimore Museum of Art. The curators and I chose to feature the LOB birds and my investigations of the confusion of glass downtown.

Printing and framing costs for a show are exorbitant. I successfully ran a Kickstarter campaign to pay for it. This garnered attention nationwide and I was featured in The Baltimore Sun, Fast Company (twice), and the Swiss media site, watson.ch. The exhibit was reviewed favorably by The Washington Post. Bloggers have reposted the articles and I now have a Twitter following. I couldn't be happier at the attention the issue is getting, and I have social media to thank for the success that the LOB project has achieved.

We all know the trouble birds are facing owing to habitat loss, feral and outside cats, and building collisions. We need to find ways to help them and there are options. New building design can consider bird-friendly design guidelines. Building and home owners can use special tape, film, strings, or create any visible disturbances in the glass of varying kinds.

I want to expand my project. The new study out by Scott R. Loss, Sara S. Loss, and Peter Marra of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and Tom Will of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows that the majority of strikes are happening at low-rise buildings and residences (<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/140207.html>). I'll be investigating such sites and I need your help. If you know of a problem building or if you'd let me photograph residential strikes, I'd be grateful. I'll be protective of personal information and respectful of personal spaces. As well as looking at building design and how it impacts wildlife, I am deeply interested in exploring what attracting birds means to us personally. I know how attached we become to our visitors. They're family. Please contact me at v.lynneparks@gmail.com.

(Editor's Note: An excellent article describing the work of Lights Out Baltimore appeared in the Mar 13 issue of the Washington Post: http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/lights-out-seeks-to-stem-bird-carnage-caused-by-city-skylines/2014/03/13/75d6f5c4-933a-11e3-b46a-5a3d0d2130da_story.html).



Birds of Note – by Les Roslund

Step aside, SNOWY OWLS! Make way for the RED-NECKED GREBES! That's the way things went as this cold winter brought an ice cover to the Great Lakes region, thereby separating RED-NECKED GREBES from their food supply and forcing them south into our region to find some open water. SNOWY OWLS were still around, but by early February the birding excitement centered around prospects of a big year for the RED-NECKED GREBES. One of the first solid signs of this came on Feb 4 when Matt Hafner of Forest Hill reported finding 11 of these grebes at Fort Armistead in Baltimore. From then until mid-March the reports of grebe sightings just kept rolling in. By the end of the day on Feb 4 at Fort Armistead the grebe number had reached 17. On Mar 8 in the area of Riley's Lock on the C&O Canal Howard Wu of Virginia observed as many as 20 or more. Also on Mar 8, Donald Sweig of Virginia with three other birders found around 30 in the Riley's Lock area. On Mar 19 Wallace Kornack of Washington DC reported seeing 14 of the grebes in the channel of the Potomac River at Hains Point in the District of Columbia. This 2014 invasion of RED-NECKED GREBES surely matches or exceeds the most recent previous invasion which occurred in 2003.

But still, to give credit where credit is due, the SNOWY OWLS remain as the brightest stars of the winter birding season. Some have shown up in each region of Maryland as well as in adjacent states. At one point the birders visiting Hart-Miller Island found four SNOWY OWLS close enough together to be captured in a single photograph. Some stayed reliably in their chosen areas for several days or even a week or more. Great photo opportunities were provided for photographers of all skill levels. And the birds chose amazing places for perching, such as bridge signs, tractor seats, sand dunes or just any old wooden post. One even perched on a building in downtown DC and eventually got hit by a bus. The winter of 2014 will be remembered for marvelous winter birding, mainly because of the SNOWY OWL irruption. Those of us who happened to be here for it were fortunate indeed!

On Jan 31 in the cold and snow two PINK-FOOTED GEESE were discovered within a flock of CANADA GEESE standing on the ice of Quarry Lake in Baltimore County. These birds were first reported by Benjamin DeHaven of Timonium. Birders immediately converged on the site and over the next few days many were rewarded with sightings and photo ops even though the birds tended to move from site to site in the area. They only stayed until the morning of Feb 4, with the final sighting reported by Kathy Calvert of Frederick who saw them on the Quarry Lake ice that morning.

On Feb 1, with ice flowing down the Chesapeake Bay in huge chunks, a single female KING EIDER was noticed and photographed by Frank Marenghi. The bird was seen from Sandy Point State Park and was relocated by Dan Haas and several other birders later in the day. Eventually the bird drifted with the

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ice down to near Thomas Point and was seen by more birders in that area until noon on Feb 3, at which point it seemed to disappear. Dan alerted Jim Stasz of North Beach to be watching for it amongst the large rafts of sea ducks south of Thomas Point, and to the astonishment of everyone the following message came back from Jim on Feb 4: "Dan was right on!!! This afternoon there was a huge scoter flock crossing back-and-forth over the Anne Arundel-Calvert border. Estimated 500 BLACK, 250 SURF, 20 WHITE-WING and one female KING EIDER." No additional sightings were reported.

TRUMPETER SWANS have been a bit more regularly seen this winter, with continued presence of one near Arnold in Anne Arundel County and another regularly found near Lake Artesmesia, Prince George's County. On Jan 20 two more TRUMPETERS were discovered. These were near a flock of about 90 TUNDRA SWAN in a field right beside Rte 50 in Dorchester County. The two were first reported by Howard Wu of Virginia, a highly skilled photographer as well as an excellent birder. After Howard's report many people stopped to check out that swan flock while on their way to Ocean City, leading to numerous additional reports. The pair apparently found the habitat to their liking, for they have stayed around, with sightings reported as recently as Mar 19.

The habitat of Blackwater NWR in Dorchester County has attracted AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS again this year, with the numbers a bit higher than usual. On a Jan 17 visit to the refuge, Fred Shaffer of Crofton, Anne Arundel County, took the refuge Wildlife Drive and found 45 of the birds. On Mar 14 Harry Ar-mistead of Talbot County, a regular Blackwater NWR trip leader reported 60 of them. Many seen by this group were on the far side of the Blackwater River which made them difficult to see and count from the Wildlife Drive. However, during Harry's visit the flock chose to take to the air twice, thereby providing conditions for a quite precise count. The birds spend the winter at this site because the food supply is sufficient and the current in the Blackwater River is fast enough to keep much of the water open on even the coldest days.

Mystery bird reports can lead to great birding stories, so good birders always welcome them. One of the lucky recipients of a great mystery bird story in mid-January was Jason Berry of Washington, DC. On Jan 17 Jason received a call from a man in nearby Bethesda asking for help in identifying a bird that was hanging around his backyard. The man was a bee keeper, and this bird was feeding on bees from his backyard hive. It had been doing so since at least as far back as November. The home owner supplied photos of the bird and invited Jason to come over and see it for himself. Jason rushed over and found the conditions exactly as described. Though it was too cold on the 17th for the bees to be active, the bird was foraging in the leaf litter beside and below the hive - apparently looking for dead bees. The bird - a male SUMMER TANAGER - had apparently decided to winter-over since the food supply was reliable and enough shrubbery was there to provide protection from weather and predators.

The excitement provided by the RED-NECKED GREBES this winter has left little room for attention to be placed on sightings

of EARED GREBES. A few have been seen near the ocean, but only two have been mentioned elsewhere. The first report came from Mikey Lutmerding of Croom, Prince George's County, who was birding in fog and rain during the afternoon of Jan 11 at the National Colonial Farm in Prince George's County. An EARED GREBE, first visible from the fishing pier eventually swam into the cove that was visible from the Piscataway Creek boardwalk. It was last seen drifting back toward the fishing pier and no further sightings of the bird were reported. The second report came on Mar 16 from Patty Craig of Dameron, St. Mary's County. Patty found a single EARED GREBE at Kitt's Point in St. Ingoes, St. Mary's County, and watched it from the parking lot until it swam away heading upstream. No additional sightings of this bird were reported.

Gulls abound in this area during the winter and one of the nicest inland places to view them is from Naylor Mill Rd which passes beside the Salisbury Landfill in Wicomico County. On Feb 12 Dan Haas of Anne Arundel County visited the landfill and nearby pond and reported two ICELAND GULLS, one possible THAYER'S GULL and 5 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS. On Feb 21 Kevin Graff of Baltimore found 2 GLAUCOUS GULLS and 1 ICELAND GULL at the site. On Feb 25 Joe Hanfman of Howard County had 7 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS, 1 juvenile ICELAND GULL and 1 second year GLAUCOUS GULL at the landfill. On Mar 11 Dan Haas made a return visit to the landfill and expanded the species list to include 1 BONAPARTE'S GULL and 5 LAUGHING GULLS. Naylor Mill Road, unlike many other roads near birding sites, lends well to birding for it has wide shoulders for parking and only moderate traffic most of the time.

(Editor's Note: the following article first appeared in the Howard Community College Times on March 3, 2014)

Maryland Birders Flock to Catch a Glimpse of the Snowy Owl

By Scott Hommel, Howard Bird Club

"I've been working with raptors all my life and this is the largest Snowy Owl irruption I've ever seen" says David Brinker, central regional ecologist for DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service. "The last big irruption I remember was in the 60's in Wisconsin. Back then there was no e-bird or internet however, so birding records were confined to personal journals."

The Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) typically spends its winters in the Arctic hunting lemmings in the frozen tundra. However just as this past holiday season was getting underway and the term "polar vortex" was being introduced into our vocabulary, excitement amongst Maryland bird-watchers began to build as a mass winter-migration of Snowy Owls was making its way across the Free State.

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Snowy Owl continued from page 7

This “irruption” of Snowy Owls, as it is called by ornithologists, descended from northern Canada and Greenland down into the northeastern United States. Besides being spotted in Maryland, other states such as New York and New England have seen a flurry of activity, with extremely rare sightings being reported as far south as Jacksonville, Florida. So what causes this irregular winter migration or “irruption” of Snowy Owls?

The primary reason for the irruption is neither below-average temperatures nor a low food supply in the Arctic as some have suggested. “I have heard the shortage of lemmings theory”, says Joe Hanfman of the Howard County Bird Club, “but I think the real reason for the irruption is that the owls had a very good breeding season up north. This forces the juvenile owls to travel farther in search for food.”

“So far this winter I have seen reports of Snowy Owls in fourteen of Maryland’s twenty three counties, personally spotting them in nine of those counties” adds Hanfman, who is an active contributor to the Maryland Biodiversity Project. “Carroll and Somerset counties have now recorded their first ever Snowy Owls, but we are still hoping for one to show up in Howard County this year. The only records of Snowy Owls in Howard County date back to 1947, 1960, and an unconfirmed sighting in 1985.”

These Arctic birds of prey have been spotted near the Bay Bridge, Assateague State Park, and at BWI airport. Snowy Owls flock to airports because the flat runways resemble the Arctic tundra they are accustomed to. Assateague State Park Ranger Meghan Sochowski credits Assateague’s ideal habitat and abundance of prey such as rabbits and waterfowl for the recent influx of Snowy Owls.

Ranger Sochowski concurs with Joe Hanfman’s irruption theory stating that “the lemming population was very high during the summer of 2013 in northern Quebec. Breeding was so successful and there was such a great population of Snowy Owls, which is why we are seeing so many juvenile owls in search for food. This is by far the largest irruption I’ve seen here at Assateague State Park.”

“The myth has been that the owls have been starving to death in the Arctic, and that’s just not the case” elaborates David Brinker. “As a bird-bander you realize when you put your hands on these owls that their weight is normal and they are very healthy birds, not emaciated at all.”

They are territorial owls and if you have a lot of birds in one region, eventually some will have to migrate elsewhere to find food. The juveniles cannot compete with the adults so they cross the boreal forest, arriving down here in southern Canada and the states in search of food.”

While birders are encouraged to embrace the rare opportunity to marvel at the Snowy Owl’s beauty, Ranger Sochowski recommends proceeding with caution. “You want to give the owls at least 100 feet of space, as they are not accustomed to human interaction. Their talons are quite sharp, and flying away from

humans expends extra energy which certainly does little to benefit the owls.”

As more and more sightings are being confirmed around Maryland, and even in downtown D.C, local birders continue to flock to these hotspots in hopes of catching a glimpse of these mysterious owls. For more information on the irruption of Snowy Owls and to help fund ongoing research, bird enthusiasts are encouraged to visit www.projectsnowstorm.org, where ornithologist David Brinker and his colleagues track Snowy Owls to learn more about their winter migration habits.

Conference Report

5th International Swan Symposium

February 3-6, 2014
Easton, MD

This meeting was convened as the 23rd conference of The Trumpeter Swan Society. The Society itself was formed in 1968 in response to the decline and vulnerability of the remaining native trumpeter swan populations in North America. Its efforts have enlisted the skills, resources, and responsibilities of game managers, conservation organizations, and private landowners alike in protection/restoration of trumpeter swan habitat, management of natural populations, and re-introduction this species into parts of its original range.

The scope of the connections and affiliations developed by The Trumpeter Swan Society were reflected in this truly international conference, which included contributions from across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia (papers were also accepted from South America although the authors were unable to attend). It was my pleasure to attend as a representative of the MOS and Waterfowl Chesapeake, both of which were recognized as conference supporters.

There are currently six recognized swan species, all in the genus *Cygnus*:

Whooper Swan	<i>C. cygnus</i> , Iceland, Europe, Asia
Trumpeter Swan	<i>C. buccinator</i> , western North America
Tundra Swan	<i>C. columbianus</i> , North America
Mute Swan	<i>C. olor</i> , native to Eurasia, widely introduced
Black Swan	<i>C. atratus</i> , Australia and New Zealand
Black-necked Swan	<i>C. melancoryphus</i> , South America

Bewick’s Swan, native to Eurasia, is now considered a subspecies of Tundra Swan, as is Whistling Swan, the North American race. The program listed papers on all species, not just the Trumpeter Swan, although scheduled presenters from Chile were unable to attend so contributions on the Black-necked Swan were included only as manuscripts. The conference also included a day-long field trip, largely through Dorchester County and ending at Blackwater NWR, to see wintering Tundra Swans. The quest was successful in locating large flocks at several locations.

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As a participant in many scientific meetings in the past with their interesting (to me) but esoteric (to the lay person) presentations, I was uncertain what to expect from a conference focusing on a small group of waterfowl from such a large geographic perspective. I was more than pleasantly surprised, not only by the general accessibility of the presentations but even more by the superb caliber of the studies on which they were based. Swan research and management is not a widely known area of wildlife ecology in the US. I cannot speak for other countries, but it certainly appears to be alive and well in Canada, Great Britain, The Netherlands, The Balkans (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), Russia, China, and Australia. The influence of Christopher Perrins, past President of the British Ornithologists' Union and first person to be appointed Warden of the Swans in the British Royal Household, was very evident in the lineup of papers. Dr. Perrins attended the conference, moderated some sessions, and was generally available to talk informally with the participants. Larry Hindman of Maryland DNR was the conference's second catalyst, equally congenial and readily available to answer formal and informal questions. These two alone would have made any such conference worthwhile.

The take-away message I learned from this conference is that swans in general are doing well world-wide. This is certainly the result of concerted management efforts, many of which were presented in detail, and of efforts to define and reduce the effects of lead-shot poisoning, illegal hunting, and power line collisions near breeding and feeding grounds. In addition, especially for the Bewick's subspecies of Tundra Swan, population increases have been associated with breeding and wintering range shifts as a result of the expansion of corn agriculture in western Russia and The Balkans. In fact, among the waterfowl, swans as a group appear to be especially affiliated with human activity. This affiliation has reached its apex with the mute swan in Great Britain, where almost all individuals are "owned" by the Crown and Swan Upping (now used to assay population status and health) in April on the Thames is an annual tradition that dates back into the 1400's. We in the Chesapeake know all too well the consequences of this affiliation following the inadvertent introduction of mute swans to these waters. The success of the MD DNR's control program was presented and well-received at the conference. Other papers showed that Michigan has now become the Mute Swan capital of North America.

The two native North American swans, of course, are of most interest to us. There are three major Trumpeter Swan populations as defined by their primary flyways: Pacific, Rocky Mountain, and Interior. The first two breed in Alaska and migrate down the Pacific Coast as far as California, and along the Rockies to the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park and Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming, respectively. Yellowstone NP also hosts a non-migratory population. The third population has resulted from attempts to re-introduce the Trumpeter Swan to what is believed to be its former haunts. The introductions took place in the 1980's using birds from the Pacific flyway. Interior populations now number over 600 birds in western Ontario and 220 pairs in Wisconsin. They are the presumed source of

wintering Trumpeter Swans seen with apparently increasing frequency along the Atlantic seaboard, including the Chesapeake region.

As birders will attest, Tundra Swans are doing well enough to be seen easily across our region during the winter months. What we may not appreciate is the long distance these birds have flown to get here. "Our" Tundra Swans breed on the North Slope of Alaska and Canada. They migrate due South until they reach the US/Canada border at North Dakota, then dog-leg East below the Great Lakes to reach the mid-Atlantic coast. This is a nearly 4,000-mile round trip and results in the swans' spending nearly half their lives in the air.

The conference also included presentations on several swan diseases. At present these appear to be local problems without the threat of developing into an epizootic that would threaten population vitality. In fact, the principal threat may come from one of the major contributors to population well-being, i.e., a close association with agricultural lands, especially in winter. We have unwittingly become the custodians of these beautiful birds through changes in grain farming that have contributed to the green revolution in food production. How well we guarantee their future may depend on how well we sustain our own.

-- Wayne Bell, Talbot Chapter

MOS ANNOUNCES THE GLASS EGG CONSERVATION PROJECT

By Maureen Harvey, MOS President

Photos by Aaron Kirchhoff

MOS is pleased to announce a partnership with glass artist and bird conservation advocate Aaron Kirchhoff (aaron.kirchhoff@gmail.com) of Rockville, Maryland. Mr. Kirchhoff has created several clutches of fine art glass eggs and offered them to MOS as incentives to raise funds in support of the conservation activities of the organization. The hand-made eggs are artistically rendered solid-glass replicas of threatened bird species. The Glass Egg Conservation Project was conceived in an effort to fulfill three goals: to assist the conservation efforts of MOS, to promote awareness of the need for ecological conservation, and to celebrate the immense variety and natural beauty of the bird egg. MOS will retain 100% of your tax-deductible donation, and the glass eggs are not available to be purchased from any other source. Just as in nature, no two of these eggs are exactly the same. If you are interested in taking advantage of this incentive offer, submit a check for the minimum amount specified for the desired clutch to MOS Treasurer Dave Webb, 4141 Quail Way, Havre de Grace MD 21078. State which clutch is desired, and include your name, address, and phone number. Provide a delivery address if different from yours. For delivery as a gift, please provide your message to the recipient. Upon verification of the donation, the Treasurer will provide shipping information to the Artist.

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Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) clutch contains three glass eggs for a \$200 donation.



California Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*) clutch contains two glass eggs for a \$250 donation.



Majestic Longtailed Cackler (*Imperatorius longacauda*), a mythical avian creature representing the tragic decline of bird populations worldwide, speaks to our responsibility to reduce our impact and protect the ecology of the earth. A clutch contains two glass eggs for a \$300 donation.

Diane Ford wins the 28th Annual MOS Pin Contest

Congratulations to Diane Ford! For the second year in a row, Diane, a member of the Montgomery Bird Club, has won the annual MOS pin contest. Diane's colorful depiction of a Blue Grosbeak will grace the pins received by those who attend this year's conference to be held in Solomons, May 16-18. Diane's entry was inspired by a Blue Grosbeak she observed in a marshy section of the woodland trail on Hart-Miller Island last spring. Diane describes the experience: "Suddenly, a gorgeous male flew up to a branch and burst into song. I felt I had to sketch him. The sun was shining on his blue feathers, making it a brighter spring day. A few seconds later, a brownish-cinnamon female perched on a branch nearby". In addition to winning this year's contest, Diane also won in 2013 with a lively Virginia Rail and in 2009 with her entry of a Least Bittern.

Don't forget, it's never too early to start thinking about next year's contest. Specific information about the 2015 pin contest will be published in the September/October issue of the *Yellowthroat*. But general rules and helpful hints, as well as the images of most of the past winners, are posted on the MOS web page, in the conference section. So while birding this year, when you are inspired by an outstanding view of a lovely bird, take pencil to paper and record your observation! As with Diane's Blue Grosbeak, it may be transformed into a pin worn by birders from around the state!

For more information about the pin contest or to have your name added to the artist's list (to receive reminders of the contest deadline), contact Ellen Lawler at 410-546-9056 or emlawler@salisbury.edu.



YMOS BIRDATHON 2014

Results By Wayne Bell

Take 13 keyed-up young girls and boys, a challenging list of 100 bird species they "must see," and the habitat diversity provided by Maryland's Eastern Shore. Mix with a couple of warm March days sandwiched within a cold and icy winter that just would not quit. Stir in some well-coordinated transportation provided by parents with more than a passing interest in the relationship between birds and kids. Then shake the mixture using energy generated by the encouragement of a bird-watching community that has pledged generous financial support. What do you get? The 2014 YMOS Birdathon!

This year the recipe was a keeper: 127 total species identified with only three deductions for species missed on the "Must-See" list. The final total of 124 net species resulted in \$2,215 raised through pledges and donations, the largest amount earned since the annual YMOS Birdathon began in 2009. "I knew we were doing pretty well when a woodcock flushed and flew alongside our car! It was

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so close that we could see its long bill, streaky back and big round eye!" shouted an excited young birder. Our strung-out gaggle of autos gathered at the spot and, in the darkness of early evening after a long day afield, heard the peent of not one but two roding American Woodcocks. Yes, they were doing very well, indeed, with over more than 100 species already identified. But, with 14 Must-See misses, they were still short of 100 net sightings. And it was already past time for dinner! It was nearly 9:00 PM when they literally dragged us oldsters back on the road. A half-hour later, they had whistled in (no tapes allowed) several Eastern Screech-owls and heard a responses from a distant but identifiable Great Horned Owl. Scratch two more species off the Must-See list. They retired Day 1 knowing they had a net of 100 species; any new species on the morrow would be gravy.

That first day, March 15, began quietly but traditionally just before 6:00 AM at Truitt's Landing, an open marsh on the landward shore of Chincoteague Bay. A setting gibbous moon gave some light through scattered clouds; Mars was high in the sky and Venus was a morning star. A light South breeze was strengthening as Homer's "rosy-fingered dawn" began to appear under a cloud bank to the East. It was warm -- 50° -- and the day promised to get warmer and windier. As if on cue, first one, then a couple, then hundreds of Green-winged Teals started squeaking and several noisy flocks of Snow Geese took off into the humid air. One kid quietly understated, "Time to get started." And so we did.

YMOS birders face quite a challenge each year. Premier, of course, is the Must-See list which they construct and approve in advance. We believe this was the most difficult list yet, including species like Red-necked Grebe, Eastern Phoebe, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Fox Sparrow. The list also included all three mergansers, the three "common" owls, and "nemesis" birds that had vexed many previous Birdathons, e.g., Bonaparte's Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Cedar Waxwing. This year's cadre of outstanding young birders was able to find them all and, as required to confirm an observation, to help the majority of their comrades see or hear the birds as well. The three Must-See misses were Common Eider (heat from the south jetty at Ocean City Inlet made distant identification impossible); Great Egret (none was reported in MD that weekend); and Brown Creeper (one showed up at Bell's feeder an hour after the Birdathon had ended). True to tradition, these three will be back on next year's list.

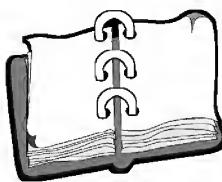
The other challenges include such variables as the whims of weather and the fact that the event takes place in the shoulder season between departing waterfowl and the arrival of the first spring migrants and resident species. The only way to deal with these is to prepare an itinerary with stops at locations selected for their high probability of producing one or more targeted species. The stops have to be many and brief, with enough redundancy to give at least a couple of chances to find a target during the day. A haphazard, try to see 'em all approach just does not work, something we have learned through six years of experience with even the best young birders. The Eastern Shore working landscape of farms, towns, parks, and preserves is a perfect fit.

We often remind the kids that success depends on a landscape that is a community as well as an environmental benefit, and that wise conservation entails keeping that landscape truly working for the benefit of the people who live on it as well as the birds and other wildlife that depend on it.

The strategy for March 16, Day, 2, was different thanks to the success of Day 1. Rather than drive many miles between habitats, the group elected to target only a few key locations where good habitat diversity was available just by walking a bit. Spocott, the historic Radcliffe estate in Dorchester County, was selected because it is undergoing grassland restoration and offers a diversity of second-growth habitat on private land. The group decided to end the Birdathon in Talbot County at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, a location with extensive restored non-tidal wetlands, a mix of second-growth and mature forest habitat, and a two-year, habitat-specific bird monitoring program carried out by volunteers who record their weekly results on the public eBird data base. These well-informed choices produced an additional 16 species, most of them Must-See's like Savannah Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and a Barred Owl ("It was sooooo close!!"), along with some surprises such as Golden Eagle and Merlin (which was first dismissed with a "yeah, yeah" until it was later scoped and positively identified).

Funds from the Birdathon are applied to YMOS activities, especially representation of the MOS in the World Series of Birding (WSB) international competition at Cape May, NJ, in May. In addition to honing the necessary field identification skills, the Birdathon is a hands-on lesson in group collaboration and planning logistics. Both of these skills will serve these youngsters well, not only at the WSB but wherever their respective futures may take them. We sincerely hope those futures will include memories of the great birding and warm friendships that they enjoyed during their years with YMOS.

We thank all who supported the YMOS Birdathon in whatever capacity. You have made a wonderful investment in the next generation. For now, at least, your trust is being repaid 13-fold. There is much more to come.



MOS Calendar

May - June 2014

By Andy Martin

Thursday, May 1

Meeting. Frederick. The famous annual FBC Bird Quiz! Your bird identification skills will be challenged by a series of pictures and sounds. Bob Schaefer will challenge you with videos. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, contact Tom Humphrey, Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org or 301-696-8540.

■ Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 6 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Saturday, May 3

■ Allegany/Garrett. Green Ridge SF for warblers! Meet at the P&R off Ali Ghan and Christie Rds at 8 AM. Contact Mary Huebner at marybrd22@gmail.com for add'l details.

■ Baltimore. Susquehanna SP, Rock Run Area. Meet at Cromwell Bridge Rd P&R at 6:30 AM. Or meet at the park at 7:30 AM at the lot next to the old mill building. Possible Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. Bring a picnic lunch for the wrap-up. Must register with the leader. Limit 15. Leader: Tim Houghton, 410-510-7504 or thoughton@loyola.edu.

■ Carroll. Susquehanna SP. Spring migration along the Susquehanna River. All nesting warblers will also be present. Meet 8 AM at the parking lot on Stafford Rd immediately west of Lapidum Rd. From I-95 north, exit at Rte 155 east and in a quarter mile turn left on Lapidum Rd. Follow it to its end at Stafford Rd and turn left. Leader: Bob Ringler, 410-303-2792. May Count. Dorchester. 93rd May Count. 1st of two Dorchester May counts. Compiler: Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com.

■ Frederick. Thompson WMA (near Front Royal, VA). Warblers and wildflowers! Contact the leader: Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 for meet time and place.

■ Harford. Sixth Annual Epic Birding Contest. The previous 5 competitions have been well-attended and good fun. So make room on your calendar to join us at Susquehanna SP. Birders at all skill levels welcome. Meet at the Rock Run Mill at 6:30 AM for team selections and rules review. Counting will begin at 6:45 AM and end at 11:30 AM. Rally celebration will occur at approximately 12 noon at the Laurrapin Restaurant in Havre de Grace. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. Coordinators are Tom Gibson (410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com) and Sue Procell (410-676-6602 or procellmd@gmail.com).

■ Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon

Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Washington. Mills Park. Continuing series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Start 8 AM from the Northern Ave parking lot. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 for more details and to register.

Sunday, May 4

■ Anne Arundel. Family Bird Walk, Kinder Farm Park. This trip is designed for beginners and families to discover the joy of bird watching. Experienced leaders will facilitate these walks through various habitats and introduce you to the basics of spotting and identifying birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, but they are not required. We will be using our ears as much as our eyes! We'll meet in the parking area next to the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at the Vollmer Center parking lot (4915 Greenspring Ave) for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Fred Archibald May Count. Frederick. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Coordinator: Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

■ Montgomery. Occoquan Bay NWR. Half day. Explore the diverse habitats in this one-square mile refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers in Woodbridge, VA. A variety of raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes, and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge at 7:30 AM. Reservations required. Limit: 25. For reservations, call the leaders: Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net.

■ Montgomery. Little Bennett RP. Half day. Near peak migration for warblers and vireos, including those breeding in this varied habitat. Contact the leader for time and directions. Reservations required. Leader: Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894.

■ Talbot. Bombay Hook NWR and DE Bay Shore. This trip is at the height of spring migration for wading birds, shorebirds, and passerines. Leader: Charles Hopkins, 410-763-8742. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot (intersection of Rte 322 and Marlboro Rd) at 6:30 AM. Bring lunch, drinks, and snacks to share. Full day trip.

Tuesday, May 6

■ Baltimore. Robert E. Lee Park (Lake Roland). A series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. Beginning birders welcome. Meet time 8 AM. Walks begin at the head of the Boardwalk, accessible from the Light Rail parking lot. Check schedule at BBC website, <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>, for updates or contact leader: Mary Chetelat, 410- 665-0769.

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Meeting. Baltimore. Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: Speaker and Topic TBA. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com.

 Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Call the leader for more info and for specific directions. Limit: 8. Reservations required. Leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

 Washington. Sideling Hill. WCBC and Potomac Valley Audubon Society are co-sponsoring this trip to Sideling Hill to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. Meet 7 AM in the upper parking lot of MD MVA in Hagerstown (off Rte 65, just south of I-70). Contact Anna Hutzell, at 301-797-8454 or Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 to register.

Wednesday, May 7

 Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. See BBC website at <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/schedule.html> for more detailed directions to Ft. McHenry. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Meeting. Carroll. Speaker and Topic TBD. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg. Contact Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117 for more info.

Meeting. Cecil. Speaker and Topic: Election night! Location: Elkton HS, Rm B120, 110 James St, Elkton. Directions: From I-95 take the Elkton exit and go south on MD 279 (Elkton Rd) for about 2.5 miles. Turn right on James St. The high school is at the end of James St. Meeting starts at 7 PM. For more info, contact Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless at seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

Wednesday to Sunday, May 7 to 11

 YMOS. World Series of Birding, Cape May, NJ. For YMOS WSB team members only. Trip departs at 5 AM Wed morning for 3 days of scouting. We'll participate in the Big Day on Sat, trying to find as many species as we can in 1 day. We'll return Sun around 4 PM after the Awards Brunch. The Birdathon fundraising will hopefully pay for the motel, the Awards Brunch, a T-Shirt, and most of the food costs. For more info, go to <http://www.ymos.org/> or contact George Radcliffe at radclifg@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 8

Meeting. Howard. "Owls of the US and Canada, and Population Dynamics of the Western Burrowing Owl," by *Steve Sheffield*, professional biologist with professorships at Bowie State and Virginia Tech. Explore the diversity of nature found in some of our county's natural areas. Hospitality 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

Friday, May 9

 Montgomery. Birding by Ear along the C&O. The emphasis

is on listening so tune up your ears for this half-day canal walk. Migrant and nesting landbirds. Meet 7 AM at the end of Pennyfield Lock Rd. Reservations required. For more info and reservations call the leaders. Leaders: Cyndie Loeper, 301-530-8226 or Ann Lucy, 301-229-8810.

Saturday, May 10

May Count. Allegany. To participate, contact J.B. Churchill, jchurchi@atlanticbb.net, 301-689-8344 or 301-697-1223 (m) to be assigned an area to count.

May Count. Anne Arundel. Contact Dotty Mumford, 410-849-8336 or dottymum@comcast.net to let her know where you will be counting.

May Count. Baltimore. All-day count of birds in Baltimore City and Co. For area assignments call compiler Joel Martin, 410-744-9211 or jeclmartin@aol.com.

May Count. Calvert. Compiler: Sherman Suter, ssuter@aaas.org. May Count. Caroline. Compiler, Debby Bennett. Contact her at 410-829-4952 or dabennett1996@gmail.com for more info.

May Count. Carroll. Individual parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas. Parties will count resident and spring migrant bird species throughout Carroll Co. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird counting area at jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716. The Tally Rally will be hosted by Susan Bollinger at her home. RSVP to Susan at 410-848-2050 if you will be attending Tally. Please bring a cash donation (\$5) or a food item.

May Count. Cecil. Contact Compiler Richard Donham at rdonham8@gmail.com for area assignment and more info.

May Count. Charles. Compiler: George Jett, 301-843-3524 or gmjett@comcast.net.

May Count. Dorchester. 94th May Count. 2nd of two annual Dorchester May counts. Compiler: Harry Amistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com.

May Count. Frederick. 50th Annual! It's peak migration, so this is the most fun you can have working on a census. Lots of eyes and ears are needed! Compiler: Mike Welch, 301-685-3561 or manddwelch@comcast.net.

May Count. Garrett. To participate contact Fran Pope, fpopo@genetmail.net or 301-334-4908.

May Count. Harford. Help Harford contribute to this important data collection day and monitor migration throughout our locale. Contact the coordinator, Rick Cheicante, rickcheicante@cs.com or 410-803-2712, for assignment.

May Count. Howard. Compiler: Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 (h) or KJHeff@aol.com.

May Count. Kent. An all-day effort to census as much of Kent Co as possible. Join a field party or count in your neighborhood. Contact one of the leaders for details. Leaders: Walter Ellison and

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Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

May Count. Montgomery. Compiler: Diane Ford, dmford455@yahoo.com.

May Count. Prince George's. Compiler: Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152 or fwfallon@ymail.com.

May Count. St. Mary's. Compiler: Patty Craig, 301-872-5670 or walelu67@yahoo.com.

May Count. Somerset. Compiler: Paul G. Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net.

May Count. Washington County. Contact coordinator Mark Abdy, 301-432-7696, for guidelines and an assignment.

May Count. Wicomico. Compiler: Ellen Lawler, EMLAWLER@salisbury.edu or 410-546-9056.

May Count. Worcester. Compiler, Mark Hoffman, wcbirding@comcast.net.

World Series of Birding. New Jersey Audubon will proudly host the 31st annual World Series of Birding-North America's premier conservation event. This event has changed the birding landscape and raised over \$8,000,000 for bird conservation. Every species found-every dollar raised preserves and protects critical bird habitat.

■ Cecil. Elk Neck SF. Traverse the quiet wooded lanes of one of Cecil's prime birding gems. At this time of year, the forest is starting to ring with the songs of newly arrived summer residents: Veery, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Worm-Eating and Black-and-White Warblers, Great Crested Flycatcher, and other goodies. Meet 7 AM at the State Forest office parking lot off Irishtown Rd. Wear sturdy footwear for walking trails that may be muddy. Sunscreen and bug spray are recommended. Leader: Parke John, parke@del.net.

■ Montgomery. Izaak Walton League Property, B-CC Chapter. Half Day. The Club's 3rd official trip to this large private property south of Poolesville. Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be on its way by this date. Trip will start at 7 AM at the League's chapterhouse. Reservations required. For reservations and directions, contact Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net or 301-530-6574. B-CC Chapter Treasurer and MBC member Jim Tate will co-lead.

■ Washington. Antietam Battlefield. Enjoy 'Birding Through History" with Nick Lund. Meet at 8 AM in the visitor center parking lot. Contact Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454 to register and for more detailed directions.

Sunday, May 11

■ Anne Arundel. Foreman's Branch. Originally founded under the name Chino Farms Banding Station, Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory has been in operation at its current location since

1988. We will observe the volunteers as they make their rounds removing birds from the capture nets, transporting them back to the shack, attaching a band and releasing them. This is a great chance to observe birds at a much closer distance than we typically see them in the field. We'll meet at the Bay 50 parking lot located off Rte 50 on Whitehall Rd at 7 AM. Leader: Dan Small, daniel_m_small@yahoo.com.

■ Anne Arundel. Swan Creek. The Swan Creek wetlands are adjacent to the Port of Baltimore's dredged material placement site at Cox Creek, near the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Swan Creek is a very limited access area that has quickly developed into a magnet for all types of birds. We'll meet up on site at 7 AM and please be prompt as we only have a limited period of time on the property. The trails are generally flat and covered with gravel. Scopes are recommended for the large ponds. Leader: Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com or 410-428-7567. Contact Stan if you need directions.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for migrant and resident passerines. Meet 9 AM. Half mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com and Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or brineer@verizon.net.

Audrey Carroll May Count. Frederick. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Coordinator: David Smith 410-549-7082.

■ Harford. Harford Glen. The Glen offers varied habitat attractive to many avian species, especially at this migration time. Don't miss this prime season and location for some great bird-watching! Join leaders Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net and Ruth Bergstrom, 443-752-1967 or ruthb22@yahoo.com at the lower parking lot at 7 AM.

■ Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Call the leader for more info and for specific directions. Limit: 8. Reservations required. Leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

■ Talbot. Millington WMA, Kent Co on Rte 330. New location. Expect nesters and migrants Prothonotary, Kentucky, and numerous other warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. We will cover Black Bottom and Big Stone Rds. as well as wet forest, bottomlands and fields. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM. Return around noon. Bring drinks and snacks.

Tuesday, May 13

■ Baltimore. Robert E. Lee Park (Lake Roland). A series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. Beginning birders welcome. Meet time 8 AM. Walks begin at the head of the Boardwalk, accessible from the Light Rail parking lot. Check schedule at BBC website, <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>, for updates or contact leader: John Landers, 410-426-3374 or dado1bw@aol.com.

Meeting. Kent. Speaker and topic TBA. 7:30 PM at Wesley Hall,

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Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Meeting. Patuxent. "Recording and Identifying Flight Calls of Nocturnal Migrants (for the fun of it!)" by *Andy Martin*, Montgomery Bird Club. Andy will speak about his experiences recording the nocturnal flight calls of migrating birds and show examples and discuss techniques and equipment used. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call David Mozurkewich at 301-459-3375 or go to <http://www.pgaudubon.org/programs.html>.

Wednesday, May 14

Meeting. Anne Arundel. 7:30 PM at the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville, MD. Program and speaker: "Bird Banding on the Eastern Shore" by *Dan Small*, Washington College. For add'l info contact Barbara Johnson at 410-7034664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 15

Meeting. Caroline. Members Night. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton. For info contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 6 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Friday to Sunday, May 16 to 18

Annual Conference. MOS. Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center, Solomons, Calvert County, MD. Join your fellow birders from across the State of Maryland for the MOS Annual Conference, featuring field trips, workshops, social events, business meeting, and special guest speaker for the gala banquet. Check the MOS Website (<http://www.mdbirds.org/>) for more details or contact Janet Shields at janetbill@prodigy.net.

Saturday, May 17

■ Anne Arundel. Elliott Island. Elliott Island is located 18 miles south of Vienna in Dorchester Co. Meet 2 PM at the Bay 50 Shopping Center located off Rte 50 on Whitehall Rd. Please contact the leader for more info. Leader: Ross Geredien, goodmigrations@yahoo.com.

■ Baltimore. Milford Mill Park. One-mile level walk on paved path for migrant warblers thrushes, tanagers, grosbeaks and other songbirds. Meet 7:30 AM, contact leader for directions. Leader: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com.

■ Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. See BBC website at <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/schedule.html> for more detailed directions to Ft. McHenry. Leader: Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

■ Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30

AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, May 18

■ Baltimore. Glen Artney and Avalon areas, Patapsco River Valley SP. This park has a variety of habitats including Lost Lake, stream-side woods and open fields. Possibilities include spring migrants such as warblers, vireos, and orioles as well as resident birds. Level walking on paved and gravel roads. This is a fee area of \$2 or \$3 dollars per car. Carpooling is recommended. Meet 8 AM, contact leader for location. Leader: Mary Anne Fluke, 443-690-4319 or mfluke62@gmail.com.

■ Cecil and Kent. DE Bay Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs. Combined trip! The annual May gathering of northbound shorebirds including large numbers of Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones in bright breeding dress, feeding on Horseshoe Crab eggs along the shores of DE Bay is a migration spectacle. We will visit the DE Bay shore from Prime Hook north to Mispillion Light; an area also good for coastal marsh birds, gulls and terns. Full day, bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Insect repellent and sunscreen are strongly recommended. Cecil birders may carpool from the Dunkin' Donuts in the Big Elk Mall in Elkton (leaving at 7 AM) and join the Kent birders at the Dollar General parking lot in downtown Chestertown, leaving from there at 8 AM. The leaders are Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin (410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com). (NOTE: this is a revised trip for Cecil Bird Club, replacing the one previously announced for Saturday, May 17).

■ Talbot. Pocomoke Trip. Contact the leader, Steve Ford, 410-822-2796 for all details.

■ Tri-county. Day trip to Smith Island for pelicans, herons, and shorebirds. If you are interested, call leader Sam Dyke at 410-742-8920 for more info.

Monday, May 19

Meeting. Tri-County. Program: TBA. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury. For more info contact Betty Pitney at 410-543-1853.

Tuesday, May 20

■ Baltimore. Robert E. Lee Park (Lake Roland). A series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. Beginning birders welcome. Meet time 8 AM. Walks begin at the head of the Boardwalk, accessible from the Light Rail parking lot. Check schedule at BBC website, <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>, for updates or contact leader: Josie Gray, 410-922-1837.

■ Washington. Pangborn Park. This is part of a series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Meet 8 AM at the lake pavilion. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to register.

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Wednesday, May 21

■ Montgomery. Washington County: Seeking Breeders and Migrants. Explore some of Washington Co's under-birded treasures. Expect some birding from the road mixed in with some moderate hikes (nothing overly strenuous). Bring snacks, drinks, lunch, insect repellent, etc. Reservations required. Limit: 10. Carpooling suggested. For reservations, directions, and meet time, contact Jim Green at 301-742-0036 (m) or jkgbirdman53@gmail.com.

Meeting. Montgomery. Speaker: *Gail Mackiernan*. Topic: "Birding in Ethiopia." In Mar 2013, *Gail*, her husband, and two British friends traveled by Land Rover more than 4000 km through this unique country's mountains, deserts, and canyons. Along the way, they encountered over 500 species of birds, a number of rare mammals, and many varied cultures found in this ancient land. *Gail* will share the group's experiences as well as numerous photos of the country's abundant wildlife. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at urciolaa@sidwell.edu.

Saturday, May 24

■ Baltimore. Bombay Hook. Full-day trip for a wide variety of migrating shorebirds. Be prepared for heat and biting insects. Minimal walking involved. Scopes very useful. Bring a lunch. Meet 7 AM at Nursery Rd P&R, I-695, Exit 8. Alternatively, meet 9:15 AM at the Bombay Hook Visitor Center lot. Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217, 443-904-6314 (m), or pete_webb@juno.com.

■ Harford. Susquehanna SP. Leader Tim Houghton will guide you to various hot spots depending on what is being seen at the time and the status of the spring migration. Expect a variety of passerines/warbler as well as waterfowl and waders out on the river. A few eagles should fly over as well. Meet at the Rock Run Mill parking area at 7:30 AM. There is a limit of 15 birders so contact Tim at thoughton@loyola.edu or 410-510-7504.

■ Howard. Hot Spots for Red Knots. Full day. We will start at 8:30 AM at the visitor center for Prime Hook NWR and work our way north along the Bay. We will also visit the handsome and informative nature center at Mispillion Lighthouse, which offers great views of Red Knots and other shorebirds. We will go until dark or exhaustion, whichever comes first. Bring binoculars, scopes, food, water, sunscreen, loads of insect repellent. Reservations required. Trip departs Broken Land Pkwy P&R (west side) promptly at 6 AM if carpooling. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net or 410-461-1643 (before 8 PM).

Sunday, May 25

■ Anne Arundel. DE Bay. George Thomas will lead this fabulous trip to points on the DE Bay to see Horseshoe Crabs spawning and the multitudes of shorebirds that depend on the eggs for fuel on their migration. We'll meet at the Bay 50 shopping center off Rte 50 on Whitehall Rd at 6 AM. Leader: George Thomas, glt553@verizon.net.

■ Patuxent. DE Bay. All-day trip to view the concentration of horseshoe crabs along the DE Bay and the shorebirds that feed on their eggs. Meet at 7 AM at the Bowie P&R to carpool. Contact Fred Fallon (fwfallon@ymail.com, 410-286-8152) or Dave

Mozurkewich (301-509-2212, mozurk@bellatlantic.net) for more info.

■ Talbot. Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Leaders: Les Coble (410-829-5501) and Dave Bent. Target birds will be late migrant and nesting passerines. A few late ducks and shorebirds are sure to be on the ponds. Species total is likely to be 70, with more if we divide into two groups! Select your choice of field and woodland or water and marsh habitats.

■ Washington. City Park. This is part of a series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Start 8 AM from the Hager House parking lot. Call Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 to register.

Monday, May 26

■ Harford. Cromwell Valley Park. Take an avian excursion through this Baltimore Co preserve sure to score well with spring migrants. Led by veterans Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net and Marian Rutigliano, 410-828-1135 or marian.rutigliano@verizon.net. Meet at the commuter lot on the west side of Rte 152 (Fallston Rd) just north of Rte 147 (Harford Rd) at 7 AM.

Tuesday, May 27

■ Baltimore. Robert E. Lee Park (Lake Roland). A series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. Beginning birders welcome. Meet time 8 AM. Walks begin at the head of the Boardwalk, accessible from the Light Rail parking lot. Check schedule at BBC website, <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>, for updates or contact leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

Meeting. Washington. Members Night. Bring short presentations, photos, stories, or anything of interest to share with your birding friends. 7 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

Saturday, May 31

■ Anne Arundel. Fairhill NMRA. Fair Hill is a 5,656 acre Natural Resources Management Area, where multiple management practices are employed for the maximum use and protection of Maryland's natural resources. Come to an area rich in bird diversity, led by Sean McCandless. Sean is an expert in bird identification and Fairhill is his favorite haunt this time of year. We'll meet at Parole P&R (located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva and S. Haven Rds) at 6:30 AM. Contact Kevin Smith at ravens3077@yahoo.com for details. Leader: Sean McCandless.

■ Baltimore. Northern Baltimore County. New trip for summer breeders including warblers, vireos, swamp birds, field birds, including Horned Lark, Eastern Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher, Blue-winged, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers. Meet 7:30 AM at Timonium P&R. Leaders: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Meet 8 AM at the White House in park near intersection of Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave. For

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questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

Frederick. Western Maryland. Full day. This always-popular trip will take us to Allegany and Garrett Cos. in search of goshawk, Henslow's Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Least and Alder Flycatchers, and much more. Leader: Tom Humphrey, 301-696-8540.

Howard. Patapsco Scrubland. Meet 7:30 AM at 735 River Rd (up long drive take right-hand split and park by house). Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. Moderate to possibly difficult walking: steep trails with several stream crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. Facilities available. Leader: Felicia Lovelett, 301-802-1969 or c5nest@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 1

Harford. June Count Kickoff. For details on the June count, contact Matt Hafner. This "kickoff" trip, led by Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com will visit a variety of "hot spots." The meeting place and time will be determined later.

* **Talbot.** Atkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe SP. For more info including meet time and place contact leader, Danny Poet, 410-827-8651.

Wednesday, June 4

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. See BBC website at <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/schedule.html> for more detailed directions to Ft. McHenry. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Thursday, June 5

Annual Picnic. Frederick. Our favorite spot for this event is Pinecliff Park, where there is a lovely pavilion in the (ahem!) unlikely chance of rain. Bring binoculars, a dish to share, plate, utensils, and drink. We'll meet at 6 PM for birding and eats. For info contact Tom Humphrey, Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org or 301-696-8540.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 6 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Saturday, June 7

Baltimore. Carroll County Field Birds. Bird the fields of Carroll and/or Frederick Counties looking for Vesper, Grasshopper, Field, and Savannah Sparrows, Horned Lark, Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher, Red-headed Woodpecker, possible Dickcissel and Bobolink. Bring lunch. Meet 7:30 AM, contact leader for directions. Leader: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com. Rain date 6/14.

Harford. Jerusalem Mill for Nesting Birds. Visit this appealing

stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford's western border. Meet at the Mill on Jerusalem Rd (not far west of Rte 152) at 7:30 AM. Accompany leader Mark Johnson, 410-692-5978 or Mark.Steven.Johnson@comcast.net as he scours this attractive habitat for avian nests.

Board Meeting. MOS. 10 AM. Hosted by the Anne Arundel Bird Club. Location TBD. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary at janetbill@prodigy.net for add'l info.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, June 8

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for migrant and resident passerines. Meet 9 AM. Half mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com and Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or brineer@verizon.net.

Annual Club Picnic. Kent. 4:30 PM. Annual potluck at the Lodge at Eastern Neck NWR. Contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com for more info.

Talbot. North Tara Rd, Chesapeake Forest/Brookview, Dorchester Co. Previous trips have produced 70+ species, including 10 or more warblers. Cliff and Bank Swallows are likely. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. Return around noon. Bring drinks and snacks.

Tuesday, June 10

Planning Meeting. Allegany/Garrett. 6:30 PM. Frostburg Public Library, Frostburg. Contact Mary Huebner, marybrd22@gmail.com or 301-876-7545 for more info.

Washington. Mills Park. This is part of a series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Start 8 AM at the Belview Ave entrance. Parking is available in the lower lot of the American Legion accessible from Northern Ave. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to register.

Thursday, June 12

Meeting. Frederick. Annual Chapter planning meeting. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, contact Tom Humphrey, Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org or 301-696-8540.

Covered Dish Dinner and Planning Meeting. Talbot. Help plan fall 2014 schedule. Hosts: Priscilla & Paul Thut. For more info, contact Terry Allen at pattyallen10@hotmail.com or 410-829-5840.

Saturday, June 14

Cecil. Courthouse Point Rd. Courthouse Point MHA is one of the most productive birding sites in Cecil County, boasting a long list of regular and accidental species from both dry and wet habitats. Meet

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7 AM near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rtes 40 and 213. Easy walking on mostly level ground. Sunscreen and bug spray are recommended. Note: Parking permit is required for each car. There is no fee. Request permit in writing from Maryland Division of Natural Resources, Gwynnbrook Wildlife and Heritage Service Office, 3740 Gwynnbrook Ave, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Leader: Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

H Frederick. Patuxent River SP. We will choose between two sites, one a hot spot for Prairie Warblers and the other sometimes good for breeding Kentucky Warblers. Leader: Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660. Contact Bob for all trip details.

H Harford. Birding After Dark. Experience the surprises of nighttime birding. Join experienced leaders Dave Webb, 410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net and Colleen Webster, 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu for this nocturnal quest. Meet at 8:30 PM at Swan Harbor Farms for possible rails and bittern. Add'l sites will be determined by conditions and sighting reports and may include APG for Whip-poor-wills and Susquehanna SP for owls.

Thursday, June 19

H Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 6 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Saturday, June 21

H Cecil. Community Outreach. 5th Annual Northeast River Wade-In. Join us as we pull up our pant legs and wade into the Upper Chesapeake Bay to measure water quality the way retired MD State Senator Bernie Fowler does with his "sneaker index." 10 AM to 2 PM at Northeast Beach location in Elk Neck SP. Rain or shine. Wear light-colored shoes that you don't mind getting wet. Free and open to the public. For more details contact Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seancandless1@comcast.net or 410-996-5267.

H Harford. Summer Solstice Kayak Trip. In addition to a pleasant and scenic paddling trip the leaders will seek out nesting sites to spy on baby geese, ducks, Osprey, Barn Swallows, Great Blue Heron, and maybe more. Kayakers will depart the Tydings Park Marina launch area at 8 AM. No kayak? Rentals are available through Havre De Grace Marine Center (<http://www.hdgmarinecenter.com/>). The leaders are Colleen Webster, 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu and Sue Procell, 443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com.

H Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, June 22

Picnic. Washington. Bring a place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Picnic begins at 4 PM at the pavilion next to the pond. Call 301-797-8454 for directions.

Sunday to Friday, June 22 to 27

H YMOS. Maryland Birds and Habitats Summer Institute at Washington College Chestertown, MD. Any student entering grades 7-12 is eligible to participate. Info on the program, activities, and schedule can be found at <http://www.ymos.org/>.

Saturday, June 28

H Baltimore. Patterson Park. Meet 8 AM at the White House in park near intersection of Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave. For questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

Summer Picnic Planning Meeting. Carroll. 1 PM at Amy Hoffman's. Another chance to talk birds, eat, drink, and have fun with fellow birders. RSVP to Amy Hoffman, 410-549-3598 if you plan to attend.

H Washington. Pangborn Park. This is part of a series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Meet 8 AM at the lake pavilion. Call Larry Zaleski at 301-491-2866 to register.

Thursday, July 3

H Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 6 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Saturday, July 5

H Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Saturday, July 12

H Washington. Mills Park. This is part of a series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Start 8 AM at the Belview Ave entrance. Parking is available in the lower lot of the American Legion accessible from Northern Ave. Call Bruce or Linda Field at 301-797-6189 to register.

Sunday, July 13

H Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for migrant and resident passerines. Meet 9 AM. Half mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com and Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or brineer@verizon.net.

Thursday, July 17

H Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 6 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Calendar continued from page 18

Saturday, July 19

H Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

H Washington. Cushwa Basin. Meet 7AM in the Cushwa Basin parking area for a morning of birding on the towpath. Call George Warrick at 301-799-9059 for directions and to register.

Sunday, July 20

H Harford. Bombay Hook. Shorebird migration at this time of year offers a fine prospect for a rarity or two along with the usual wealth of shorebird activity at Bombay Hook. Meet at 7 AM at the Rte 155/95 P&R. Leader is Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net.

Tuesday, July 22

H Washington. Pangborn Park. This is part of a series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Meet 8 AM at the lake pavilion. Call Judy Lilga at 301-432-2276 for directions and to register.

Saturday, July 26

H Baltimore. Patterson Park. Meet 8 AM at the White House in park near intersection of Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave. For questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

Saturday, August 2

H Harford. Harford County Shorebird Search. Explore several Harford Co shorelines to see a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. Beginners interested in learning the basics of shorebird identification and experienced watchers searching for rarities will enjoy this morning trip. Meet at 7:30 AM at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace. For more info contact either of the co-leaders: Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com and Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 9

H Baltimore. Bombay Hook. Full-day trip for a wide variety of migrating shorebirds. Be prepared for heat and biting insects. Minimal walking involved. Scopes very useful. Bring a lunch. Meet 7 AM at Nursery Rd P&R, I-695, Exit 8. Alternatively, meet 9:15 AM at the Bombay Hook Visitor Center lot. Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217, 443-904-6314 (m), or pete_webb@juno.com.

Sunday, August 10

H Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for migrant and resident passerines. Meet 9 AM. Half mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com and Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or brineer@verizon.net.

Tuesday, August 12

H Washington. Mills Park. This is part of a series of walks

to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Start 8 AM at the Belview Ave entrance. Parking is available in the lower lot of the American Legion accessible from Northern Ave. Call Judy Lilga at 301-432-2276 to register.

Friday, August 22

Shorebird Workshop. MOS. 10 AM to 4 PM at Chincoteague NWR. See p. XX for details, or contact Maryanne Dolan, 202-733-5204 or Maryanne.dolan@gmail.com. See page 2 for details.

Saturday, August 23

H Montgomery. DE Coastal Areas (joint trip with ANS). Full day at Bombay Hook NWR, Ted Harvey WMA, possibly Little Creek, and other sites. Shorebirds, marsh birds, and some songbirds. Bring pack lunch and water. Meet at 8:30 AM at Bombay Hook Visitor Center parking lot. Reservations required (limit: 15). Make reservations with leader, John Bjerke at 240-401-1643 or johnbjerke1@mac.com. Cyndie Loeper will co-lead.

H Washington. Pangborn Park. This is part of a series of walks to promote bird watching in Hagerstown's parks. Perfect for beginners. Children are welcome. Meet 8 AM at the lake pavilion. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 for directions and to register.

Sunday, August 24

Picnic. Washington. Camp Harding. Bring a place setting, drink, and a dish to share, and a lawn chair. Picnic begins at 4:00PM. Call 301-797-8454 for directions.

Tuesday, August 26

H Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. First in a series of weekly Tuesday morning walks to follow the progress of fall migration. This park has variety of habitats including fields, stream-side woods, and hillside forest. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Meet 8 AM, see BBC website at <http://baltimorebirdclub.org/schedule.html> for more detailed directions. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

Saturday, August 30

H Baltimore. Patterson Park. Meet 8 AM at the White House in park near intersection of Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave. For questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

H Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch Kickoff. Join us for the traditional kick-off to the annual Turkey Point Hawk Watch, which runs every day from Labor Day weekend through Thanksgiving. Walk through the woods and fields for migrant songbirds. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are hilly sections. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Meet 7 AM at the Turkey Point parking lot. Leader: Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

H Howard. Butterflies through Binoculars. Lake Elkhorn Powderline Vegetation Management Study Tract. Meet 9:30 AM at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. No facilities. Leader: Dick Smith, 410-997-7439 or Richard.Smith@jhuaapl.edu.

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*Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other birders.
Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
July 25, 2014 for the Sep/Oct 2014 issue.*

Illustrations pp. 1,3 ©M. Suzanne Probst

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**Nominations for MOS
Officers**

The Nominating Committee
presents the following slate of MOS
Officers for the 2014-2015 year:

President: Tom Strikwerda
Vice-President: Ron Gutberlet
Treasurer: Dave Webb
Secretary: Maryanne Dolan

Helen Patton, Chair
Nominating Committee

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

MOS Members:

The Maryland birding scene is changing rapidly, in large part due to the increased awareness of serious environmental challenges and the influence of electronic communication. The MOS Long-Range Planning Committee is looking into ways to meet these challenges and is asking members to give their opinions and suggestions about possible directions MOS should take.

In the fall of 2013 a short survey was completed by about 100 MOS members and the results of this response indicated that members felt the programs currently undertaken by MOS and its Chapters are germane and important. Now we are contacting all members to solicit their opinion on how MOS should proceed to become a more proactive organization. Consequently the topics included in this survey go beyond our usual activities (e.g., field trips, current conservation efforts, bird counts, record keeping and sanctuary maintenance). Rather these questions address possible ways MOS could partner with bird/wildlife organizations and become a resource for Maryland birding and support efforts in education, outreach, advocacy and conservation. We are looking for your help in figuring out where MOS should dedicate its resources in the future for maximum efficacy, above and beyond our current activities.

PLEASE COMPLETE BY MAY 31, 2014. THE SURVEY SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 10 MINUTES.

THIS SURVEY CAN BE TAKEN ONLINE AT www.surveymonkey.com/s/PWNBYK7

OR IF YOU PREFER, YOU CAN TEAR THE SURVEY OUT OF YELLOWTHROAT AND COMPLETE THE PAPER VERSION. THEN MAIL TO:

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Cylburn Arboretum
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore MD 21209.

\$.70 postage is required.

First, a few questions on the demographic characteristics of responders.

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

1. What is your MOS chapter?

- Anne Arundel
- Baltimore
- Caroline
- Carroll
- Cecil
- Frederick
- Garrett-Alleghany
- Harford
- Howard
- Kent
- Montgomery
- Patuxtent
- Talbot
- Tri-County
- Washington

Other (please specify)

2. What is your age?

- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 or older

3. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

4. Which of the following describes your relationship to bird watching in Maryland?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

- Non-Board MOS/Chapter member
- Chapter Board Member
- MOS Board Member
- Academic/government professional in avian affairs
- Bird photographer/artist
- Backyard bird watcher
- Local bird watcher
- Statewide bird watcher
- Bird lister/chaser

The remaining questions ask your opinions about the importance of various activities MOS and its Chapters might consider participating in.

5. MOS and its Chapters sometimes provide lectures and/or courses on bird-related topics.

Do you think we should provide lectures and/or courses on the following topics?

	Yes, as lectures	Yes, as courses	Yes, both lectures and courses	Not needed	Don't Know
Basic birding skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avian biology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bird conservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special topics, like migration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

6. How important do you think it is for MOS to participate in the revision of Maryland's Wildlife Diversity Conservation Plan, an update of the 2005 action plan used to guide statewide wildlife conservation?

- Not at all important
- A little important
- Important
- Very important
- Don't know

7. Despite a consensus that attracting youth to birding is important, it has proven to be difficult to do, especially at the Chapter level. As a supplement to our current efforts, please rank the following activities in the order you think they would be most effective in bringing more youth into MOS/birding. RANK 1 (most effective) thru 5 (least effective)

	5 (least)	4	3	2	1 (most)	Don't know
Provide youth birding camps	<input type="radio"/>					
Provide family-friendly bird walks for youth and adults	<input type="radio"/>					
Include youth in projects involving physical activity such as habitat or vegetation restoration	<input type="radio"/>					
Conduct outreach to support school programs	<input type="radio"/>					
Work with local nature centers providing birding activities for youth	<input type="radio"/>					

8. Do you have any other suggestions about how to attract youth to birding?

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

9. Conservation activities were ranked very high in the earlier survey. For each listed conservation activity, please indicate how important you think it would be in addressing avian conservation issues.

	Not at all important	A little important	Important	Very important	Don't Know
Establish conservation committees in Chapters that don't have them	<input type="radio"/>				
Each Chapter identify a local protected area and monitor it for avian health	<input type="radio"/>				
MOS and Chapters partner with other bird organizations on addressing conservation issues	<input type="radio"/>				
MOS and Chapters exert pressure on state and local governments in conserving habitat for birds and wildlife	<input type="radio"/>				
MOS and Chapters take more initiative on protecting bird populations from adverse events (e.g., window strikes, cats)	<input type="radio"/>				
MOS establish a Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative (in addition to current conservation efforts) to coordinate and lead actions to conserve environment (assuming funding can be found).	<input type="radio"/>				

10. Any suggestions for other conservation activities MOS and/or the Chapters should initiate?

11. In addition to the work MOS already does in collecting and disseminating scientific data on birds, please rank these potential additional efforts in terms of efficacy. RANK 1 (most effective) thru 4 (least effective)

	4 (least)	3	2	1 (most)	Don't know
Produce publications on bird conservation	<input type="radio"/>				
Produce publications on science-based studies	<input type="radio"/>				
Enhance value of bird counts/studies (data analysis) through work with MD Department of Natural Resources and other organizations collecting avian data	<input type="radio"/>				
Partner with other bird organizations on avian studies	<input type="radio"/>				
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>				

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

12. MOS and its Chapters currently do not do much in the way of advocacy for bird-related issues. How important do you think each of the following activities would be in improving bird-related conservation efforts in MD?

	Not at all important	A little important	Important	Very important	Don't Know
Enhance capacity of Chapters to do local advocacy work	<input type="radio"/>				
Enhance capacity of MOS to do statewide advocacy work	<input type="radio"/>				
Coordinate intelligence gathering to support bird-friendly protective measures	<input type="radio"/>				
Attend state and local planning meetings on a regular basis	<input type="radio"/>				
Train members on lobbying techniques (offered by conservation NGOs)	<input type="radio"/>				
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>				

13. The MOS annual conference is our one big social event bringing birders together from throughout the State of Maryland. How critical do you think it would be in achieving our goals to add the following activities to the Conference agenda?

	Not at all critical	A little critical	Critical	Very critical	Don't Know
Make the conference more germane to younger members	<input type="radio"/>				
Become a fund-raising event with an attached bird fair	<input type="radio"/>				
Have workshops on important/pressing topics or items	<input type="radio"/>				
Include training sessions on education and outreach to newspapers and media	<input type="radio"/>				
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>				

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

14. Funds are an ongoing issue with non-profit organizations such as the MOS. Do you think we should participate in any of the following activities to raise additional funds to achieve our goals?

	Yes, participate	No, don't participate	Don't Know
MOS organize fund-raising events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chapters organize fund-raising events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apply for grants to fund specific projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>		

15. Do you think MOS should provide co-funding for shared initiatives with other bird organizations?

- Yes, provide
- No, don't provide
- Depends
- Don't know

16. Do you have any other suggestions to offer MOS's long-range planning committee about how we should proceed in the future?

MOS Long-Range Planning Survey 2014

17. The Long-Range Planning Committee is exploring ways to strengthen the capacity of the MOS to better act as a recognized resource for people, organizations and government in mobilizing information and undertaking actions in favor of avian protection. At the moment this role is shared among several groups, including MOS, Audubon, and the Department of Natural Resources, each with its own areas of expertise and knowledge. Assuming we can find the resources to conduct such an effort, which of the following best reflects your views about MOS undertaking such an effort in addition to its traditional roles? CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER.

- A good idea, long overdue, there is a need to adopt new approaches and become a recognized leader
- I like the MOS the way it is, concentrating on field trips, conservation projects, bird counts, record-keeping and sanctuary maintenance
- I'd like to see some change, but am not sure how far we should go
- Other

Other (please specify)

18. Finally, we have mentioned several initiatives MOS might pursue in the future. If you would be willing to help with any of these initiatives, please check which ones and add your name and email to the "Other" box.

	Would like to help at MOS level	Would like to help at Chapter level	Don't count on me!
Develop educational programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop youth programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in conservation initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take part in advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help develop funding initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help with electronic/media communications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MOS BY GIVING US YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT POTENTIAL LONG-RANGE INITIATIVES.

A summary report on the results of this survey will be posted in Yellowthroat and a full report on the MOS website.